

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
ALBUQUERQUE

Feb. 15, 1937.

Dear Miss Dorman:

In accordance with your request I am enclosing a copy of the paper that I gave at the Library meeting. I had hoped to rewrite it but have not had the time to change it so I want you to feel free to revise it in any way that you wish.

Sincerely,

Wilma L. Shelton



History of the New Mexico Library Association

1st
1923 Miss E. Sue Goree, former librarian, Santa Fe Public Library, Evelyn Shuler, Librarian, Raton Public Library, Mrs. N.F. Dixon, former Librarian, Albuquerque Public Library, and Miss Shelton met at the home of Mrs. Dixon in December 1923 to talk over library problems. During the course of the afternoon the New Mexico library Association was organized with Miss Shuler as President, Miss Goree as Secretary, and Mrs. Dixon as Treasurer. Our first meeting was held in Santa Fe on August 24, 1924 in connection with the Southwestern Library Association's Third Biennial Meeting.

The following program was presented:

The Library's Part in the State Educational Program ... Isabel L. Eckles, Superintendent of Education.

Book Selection for the Community and School Library ... Mary L. Holt, Librarian, New Mexico State Teachers' College.

How the Library can Help in Developing the Industrial Resources of the State ... Hugh M. Gardner, Supervisor of Agriculture, Department of Education

How to Secure and Organize a School Library ... R.T. Hodges, Superintendent, Floyd, New Mexico.

2nd
1924 The second meeting was held at Albuquerque on November 8, 1924, in connection with the New Mexico Educational Association. At the library round table Miss Goree presented the subject, "Training High School Students for more Joy Reading and less Joy Riding," which included, in part, books from babyhood, the instruction of the book world to the students, the choice of books for school library and the joy of reading. Miss Shelton talked on the "High School Debating League and the Library,"

3rd
1925 At the third meeting held in Albuquerque on November 7, 1925, Mrs. Mary H. Snobarger, then Librarian, New Mexico State Teachers' College, spoke on "Teaching the Use of Reference Books to Students," and Miss Shelton spoke on "The Library Laws."

4th
1926 Nine teachers and librarians of the state met at the Santa Fe Public Library on November 6, 1926 for the fourth session of the Association. The following program was presented:

New Books and Pamphlets Helpful to School Librarians ... Wilma Shelton, Librarian, University of New Mexico.

Ways in Which the Teacher Can Make Use of the Library ... Margery Bedinger, Librarian, State College.

Uses of Modern Literature in the High School ... Barbara Phillips, Head of English Department, Albuquerque High School

Illustrated Reprints of Standard Literature for School Libraries ... E. Sue Goree, Librarian, Santa Fe Public Library.

A Business Meeting was held at the home of Miss Goree, newly elected president, It was voted to draw up a constitution, of which Miss Shelton was chosen Chairman. Mrs. Mary Holt Snobarger and Miss Elizabeth Cooley were other

members of the committee. Plans for a survey of library conditions in New Mexico were discussed and it was voted as a preliminary to this and also to arouse and crystallize interest and desire for libraries, to appoint Miss Goree, Chairman of a publicity bureau, Miss Goree to appoint a reporter in every county to gather news items of local libraries, these to be edited and combined in a monthly bulletin which should be sent to the libraries and local New Mexico papers. At the request of the New Mexico Library Association and through the efforts of Miss Goree and Miss Bedinger, plans were made for a New Mexico field trip by Miss Julia Wright Merrill, the American Library Association field worker, who visited Roswell, Gallup, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and State College from April 20th to 29th, 1927, at which time she spoke at luncheons, a college assembly at State College, a motion pictures house at Gallup, district meeting of the Federation of Women's Clubs, and at a called meeting of the New Mexico Library Association held in Santa Fe, April 26th, 1927, with seventeen members present. She spoke on "Library Needs in New Mexico," and quoted what had been done in other states, and showed that it was perfectly feasible for New Mexico to follow their example. She demonstrated that a system of county libraries, unified under the guidance of a state agency, was what worked best in rural states. She then outlined the steps in getting this state agency. The first was to arouse interest and a desire for libraries. The New Mexico Library Association had been doing this with success. The next step, which was what we were ready for then, was to decide the form of help needed. The final step was to get action from the legislature. After Miss Merrill's speech and the discussion which followed it was moved that the President appoint a library council to consider plans for promoting library service in New Mexico. It was decided that the name of this council should be the New Mexico Library Extension Program Council. The purpose of the council was to further library service in New Mexico. Miss Goree asked ten men and women representing different organizations to be on the council. The duties of the council included:

1. To make a survey of libraries in New Mexico.
2. To study the library systems of other states.
3. To be prepared to give publicity to the subject of libraries as often as the occasion presented itself--through the press, at local, district and state meetings of the organizations of which they were members, and whenever called upon to talk on educational topics.
4. To determine the system best suited to New Mexico and to further legislative action when the members of the Council think that it is time to establish a unified system.

5th
1927 The fifth annual meeting was held in Albuquerque, November 4th and 5th, 1927, at the public library. One meeting was devoted to the public library, the other to school libraries. The following constitution was submitted by the committee and approved by the association:

CONSTITUTION

1. Name

This association shall be called the New Mexico Library Association.

2. The officers of the Association shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer to be elected at the annual meeting. The officers, together with the last president of the association, shall constitute the Executive Board which shall have power to act for the Association in the Intervals between meetings. Vacancies in office shall be filled by action of the Executive Board.

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5. Meetings

The annual meeting of the Association shall be held at the time and in connection with the New Mexico Educational Association.

6. Amendments

The constitution shall be amended by a two-thirds vote of those present at any regular meetings.

BY-LAWS

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1. Duties of officers

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- a. It shall be the duty of the President to reside at all meetings of the Association and of the Executive Board, to sign all contracts ordered by the Board, and to sign all orders drawn on the Treasurer. He shall have power to appoint such special committees as shall be necessary for the execution of the work of the Association.
- b. The Vice-President shall act for the President during his absence.
- c. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep the minutes of all the meetings, and to have custody of all the books and papers relative to the transactions of the Association. He shall conduct the correspondence of the Association, send out notices of meetings, and other notices. He shall keep a record of the membership of the Association, and report it at each annual meeting. He shall sign all orders drawn on the Treasurer.
- d. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect all dues, keep all accounts, and report these at the annual meetings. He shall be responsible for all funds and pay all bills approved by the Executive Board and signed by the President and

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Secretary. He shall send out notices to all members of the Association concerning annual dues.

2. Executive Board

The Executive Board shall convene at the annual meeting. Three members shall constitute a quorum.

3. Dues

Application for membership shall be made to the Secretary. The annual dues shall be \$1.00. Failure to pay dues for two consecutive years (after due notice of delinquency by the treasurer) shall constitute forfeiture of membership. Persons who have forfeited their membership through non-payment of dues may be reinstated upon payment or dues for the current year.

4. Nominations and elections

- a . At least two months prior to the regular meeting of the Association the Executive Board shall appoint a committee of three, no one of who shall be a member of the Board, to nominate candidates for elective positions to be filled. The committee shall nominate candidates for the positions of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. No person shall be nominated unless his consent to such nomination be previously obtained.
- b. At least four weeks prior to the regular meeting the Secretary shall mail a copy of the ballot to each of the members of the Association. Ballots shall be mailed and returned to the Secretary.
- c. The Secretary shall check on a list of members the names or all members whose votes are received and shall count and tabulate the mall votes but shall not make public the results until the votes taken at the regular meetings shall have also been counted. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected.

5. Amendments

The by-laws shall be amended by a two-thirds vote of those present at any annual meeting.

One of the significant parts of the fifth annual meeting was the report of Miss Goree. As chairman of the publicity committee Miss Goree reported news of New Mexico libraries and book lists being published at regular intervals by the state papers, radio talks over the State College broadcasting station every two weeks, as well as articles in several monthly publications having large circulations in the state. The present county library law which was secured in 1925 through the efforts of the Association and the New Mexico Federation of Women's Clubs was published in pamphlet form by the association and was distributed to school superintendents and club women.

The sixth annual meeting was held in Albuquerque November 1-2, 1928. Effective methods of library advertising, Spanish and Mexican literature, and library extension for New Mexico were some of the subjects emphasized. The Library Association, together with the Legislature committee of the New Mexico Federation of Women's Club secured the passage of a law in 1929, which created our present State Library Extension Department.

7th
1929 The seventh annual meeting was held at the State University October 31-
November 1, 1929. Librarians were greatly encouraged by the number in attendance at their meeting. The president's address, "Forward steps in New Mexico Library Service", by Miss Wilma L. Shelton, sounded the keynote of the meeting. She spoke in part of the need for working high school libraries and the desirability of a union catalog of New Mexico material. Mr. Arthur Campa, who doing research work on the folklore of the state gave a most interesting talk on "Folklore of New Mexico." Mrs. Rupert Asplund the first director of the N.M. State Library Extension Department in a talk on "The New Mexico Extension program" told what had been done by the newly organized extension department of the state and what developed from these beginnings.

New Mexico was very fortunate in having Mr. Milton J. Ferguson, State Librarian of California meet with them. His visit came at a most opportune time, when New Mexico is just beginning her state extension service . The message which Mr. Ferguson brought to this state was very encouraging and inspiring. Both in his talk "Successful library extension methods" and in open discussion later. Mr. Ferguson gave many valuable and practical suggestions for the development of our state extension service.

8th
1930 The eighth annual meeting was held in November 6th and 7th, 1930 in Albuquerque. Library extension, adult education, small libraries round table and a high school library section were featured in the program. Mrs. Asplund reported on the entertainment of the American Library Association group which stopped in Santa Fe while in route to the ALA meeting in Los Angeles. One of the resolutions presented by the resolutions committee was as follows: "resolved that the members of the New Mexico Library Association desire to place on record their belief that the results of the first year's work done by the New Mexico State library extension service have conclusively shown a great demand for and the need of such an institution in this state and that the association heartily endorses this service and requests the Legislative committee to urge upon the Legislature of 1931 the great necessity for the continued support of this service with a more adequate appropriation."

9th
1931 The ninth annual meeting was held in Santa Fe on November 5th and 6th, 1931. Miss Helen Kennedy, Second Library assistant of Los Angeles Public Library, talked on the "County Library System of California," Malcolm Wyer, Librarian, Denver Public Library, talked on "Training for Librarianship" and Mary Austin, author, Santa Fe, presented a talk on "Literature or the Southwest". The auditorium of the museum was filled with teachers, librarians, and others interested in Mary Austin.

10th
1932 The tenth annual meeting was held in Roswell, November 3rd and 4th, 1932. Through the generosity of Mr. Bagshaw the programs for the meeting were printed and through the courtesy of Colonel Pearson, Superintendent of the Military School, the librarians were luncheon guest at the Military Institute. Library extension was the theme with emphasis on state library extension department, county library law, book service to the Indians and the sick people of our state.

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12th The twelfth annual meeting was held in the Santa Fe Public Library on
1934 November 1 and 2, 1934. Mrs. Elizabeth DeHuff, Mrs. Ruth Laughlin Alexander, Mrs. Alice Corbin Henderson, and Miss Roberta Robey, and Mrs. Van Stone spoke on Southwestern Literature and Southwestern artists. Miss Shelton reported on the joint meeting of the Southwestern and Southeastern Library Association Regional Conference held at Memphis. Miss Goree, Director of the County Library organization in Texas, talked on State and national library planning.

13th The 13th annual meeting of the Association was held in Albuquerque High
1935 School Library on October 31 and November 1, 1935. Adult education and library extension and a literary program with Haniel Long and Dr. Pierce were the chief features of the program.

During the past year the president spoke with different members of the New Mexico State Planning Board and suggested that the best way to reach the people of New Mexico through library service was through a three-point program:

1. A system of public libraries serving the entire population; each administrative unit in the system to consist of a large county unit, or a combination of several small counties; existing small libraries to be federated as branches in these large units and new branches to be established as needed to serve the whole area.
2. State aid (in addition to local funds) to supply the necessary means for carrying out the program.
3. Skilled professional service. (This does not mean turning but experienced people who may lack professional training, but it does mean filling vacant or new positions with trained and qualified people.) There should be a system of state certification. Volunteer and other helpers in the small library system would work under professional librarians in the larger units.

A library conference was held on September 25, 1936 by the State planning board, which was attended by a number of librarians.

The generally accepted plan was that a State library commission and a series of district libraries was needed. A temporary library planning committee was organized with Mrs. Asplund as Chairman and Miss Dorman as secretary.

The theme throughout the history of the association has been the extension of the library through advertising, legislation and service, combined with an effort to widen the knowledge and appreciation for good literature.